

# Activity Increases Along Entire Front in Western Field

ment to take steps to control food supplies and the means for their distribution.

## RUSSIAN OFFICERS SAY PLANCK IS NOT THREATENED

PETROGRAD, February 14 (via London).—Russian staff officers to-day assert that the occupation of the crown-land of Bukovina by Austro-German armies does not menace the Russian flank or the Russian position around Lemberg. The Russians maintain that mountain ranges to the north and south render that section of the country isolated, and that the Russian positions in the Beskid range, on the south, preclude the possibility of a successful attack. Russian newspaper comments on recent rumors that the Russians contemplated evacuating Lemberg have brought denials from the Russian general staff. All the northern and northwestern slopes of the entire Carpathian range are claimed to be controlled by Russian forces, giving them a key to the situation in Eastern Galicia.

The Russians are reported to have taken the offensive at Mesolaborch. Military authorities admit the possibility of an Austro-German attack on the Russian positions around Przemyśl. In the last few days the garrison has made a number of sorties, apparently aimed at breaking the Russian ring and forming a junction with the Austrian main force approaching from Lupkow and Lutoviska. Thus far the sorties, according to Russian sources, have been disastrous. Renewed attempts at aerial reconnaissance also have been made by the besieged forces. The month passes, where much fighting at close range is going on, the Germans have produced new fighting machines, in the shape of bomb throwers and fire spouters. The bomb throwers hurl a thirty-pound bomb 200 or 300 yards. The other contrivance consists of a tube through which a stream of burning oil is forced for a distance of eight yards, and which covers with flames everything it touches. This is employed against bayonet charges.

On the left bank of the Vistula River there is evidence that the Germans are regrouping their forces, and they evidently are preparing a new attack in that region.

## OFFICIAL "EYEWITNESS" TELLS OF OPERATIONS

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, February 14.—The official press bureau to-night issued an account of the operations of the British expeditionary force in France and Belgium, written by the "eyewitness" attached to General French's staff. The narrative is dated February 11, and follows:

"On Monday, February 8, all was quiet on the British front, except for a rather severe shelling of a certain point on our centre, where the enemy used incendiary shells frequently. The activities of the enemy's snipers have diminished, owing to the excellent marksmanship of our sharpshooters.

"To the south of the Bethune-la-Hassée road the French successfully attacked, capturing an important point of the German line.

"On Tuesday, the 9th, the day passed uneventfully. The Germans displayed unwonted friendliness by throwing cigarettes into our trenches. Our men smoked the cigarettes while continuing to shoot at the Germans.

"In the centre, heavy shelling continued on Wednesday, while a large number of aircraft from both sides flew over the battle line. There were many aerial encounters, in which our aviators maintained their superiority.

"At several places on our left centre we were heavily bombarded, and one party of officers had an extraordinary escape. They were sitting down to dinner in a dugout, when a bomb from a German trench mortar landed in their midst. When the smoke and dust from the explosion had closed away, the dinner had completely disappeared, but not a single man was hurt.

"The Germans recently have shown a desire to disabuse the allies' minds of the idea that they are maltreating prisoners. An aeroplane dropped several notices in French near our lines, a translation of which follows:

"French soldiers: There is a very prevalent idea in your ranks that French prisoners have been shot by the Germans. This does not conform with the truth; quite to the contrary, they are absolutely well treated by the Germans."

## FIND FRENCH CAPTURED

PARIS, February 14 (6:50 P. M.).—A company of infantry which occupied some German trenches found there a French mortar captured in 1870, and which had been used with great effectiveness in the present struggle.

## GERMANS PREPARING TO RESUME OFFENSIVE

PARIS, February 14.—Refugees expelled from Alsace-Lorraine declare the Germans are making extraordinary preparations to resume the offensive in that region. They declare that more than 1,000,000 men are being assembled along the Rhine, and that formidable intrenchments are being prepared. Every village is reported to have been prepared to sustain a siege.

All inhabitants whose German sympathies are doubtful, refugees say, are being expelled, and every person showing indisposition is sent into Germany.

## KAISER TO CONFER WITH U. S. ENVOY

(Continued from First Page.) see itself impelled to hold the German imperial government responsible for such action of its naval authorities. One cannot escape the conclusion that President Wilson and Secretary Bryan, in their communications with the Mexican pretenders and rebel leaders, have recognized themselves to a tone that is not suitable for communications with the German empire.

## ONLY WAY TO PRESERVE EXISTING RELATIONS

"The only way to preserve the existing relations between the German empire and the United States," says Count Reventlow, in conclusion, "is actual American recognition of the German war zone declaration, and regard for the warning expressed therein."

"The Vossische Zeitung says that, while the searching of ships for contraband previously has been the acknowledged procedure, the entry of the submarine denotes a new factor in naval warfare.

"The submarine," it says, "runs a

## WHAT WARRING NATIONS CLAIM IN THEIR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

**French**  
PARIS, February 14.—To-night's official communiqué says:

"From the south to the Aisne there was no infantry action to be noted. There were artillery duels in Belgium.

"Between the Oise and the Aisne and in Champagne and Lorraine, in the region of Pont-a-Mousson, we delivered counterattacks against the enemy who had occupied Norroy, and who had obtained a footing on the neighboring heights. The struggle still continues.

"No news has been received of the operations in the Valley of the Lauch, where the fighting is little more than an affair of the outposts."

The afternoon statement said:

"In Belgium the bombardment at Neufort of our trenches in the dunes and of the city of Ypres continued. Our artillery delivered a counter bombardment of the enemy's batteries.

"From the Lys to the Aisne there were intermittent cannonades. Near Noullette a detachment of the enemy, which attempted to advance upon our trenches, was stopped short by the fire of our infantry.

"In Champagne there has been quite intense activity on the part of the enemy's artillery upon our front before Rheims. The city has been again bombarded. Our fire upon the German trenches appears to have accomplished good results.

"From the Argonne to the Moselle the day was calm.

"In Lorraine, German forces moved against those of our advanced elements, which occupy the signal station of Non, northeast of Pont-a-Mousson. The results of this battle are not yet known.

"In Alsace the enemy has taken the offensive through the Valley of the Lauch with two columns, advancing along the north and south banks of the river. The march of these troops is reported to have been delayed and impeded by our ski patrols. They are now in contact with our most advanced line.

"A violent snowstorm is raging in the Vosges."

## German

BERLIN, February 14 (by wireless via London).—The official statement issued to-day by the German army headquarters says:

"To the northwest of Pont-a-Mousson we took the village of Norroy from the French, and we also captured the village of Noroy, to the west of that village. Two officers and 151 men were taken prisoners.

"In the Vosges we stormed Wislen and Oberasgen, where we took 135 prisoners.

"In the eastern theatre, on the other side of the East Prussian front,

risk against armed merchantmen. England has armed its merchantmen and advised them to carry false flags.

"Shall Germany in the face of such treacherous methods, throw down her arms because an American ship might possibly be wrongly torpedoed? The American note demands nothing else.

"We desire to protect neutral commerce in the future as in the past, but we cannot wish that neutrals carry on trade with England in certain articles."

The protection of neutrals, the Vossische Zeitung continues, will be possible only if neutrals take care that their flag is respected by Great Britain.

The Lokal Anzeiger points out that only the United States, among all the neutral countries, has protested against the German declaration of a naval war zone. It admits the friendly nature of the note, but says:

"All this cannot alter the fact that we must characterize the standpoint of the note as a mistaken one, since it does not take into consideration the naval situation as it has developed without Germany's fault, and since a much sharper note should long ago have been sent to the British government."

## NOT BE INFLUENCED BY AMERICAN NOTE

The Kreuz Zeitung declares that Germany's note will not be influenced by the American note.

"Although the note demands inviolability of American citizens," the newspaper adds, "it is to be hoped this demand will not be extended to them if they are aboard English ships. If, as reported, the Lusitania's passengers begged the captain to hoist the American flag, Washington cannot wonder if this flag is not respected."

The Hamburger Nachrichten says that nobody can deny that German warships expose themselves to destruction through consideration for neutrals.

"American merchantmen," the Nachrichten continues, retain their right to sail in the specified waters or to avoid them. If Washington assumes that the admiralty's declaration will not be executed unsparringly, it fundamentally deceives itself.

The Frankfurter Zeitung says:

"Emphasis is laid on friendly intentions. The repeated recital of intentions to do away with difficulties in the way of the hope that Washington desires to preserve good relations with Germany and will give due weight to the German standpoint after renewed explanations.

"The note assumes a too formal and juristic standpoint regarding German justification, in eventually destroying neutral ships, and follows the line of argument of the English manner of reasoning, which unfortunately, has become second nature to the American government gives too little weight to the difficult conflict in which Germany finds itself, whereas no vital interest of the United States is threatened. The way out of this difficulty is opened by the United States' protest against British misuse of flags. As for the rest, Germany must maintain its stand."

## ITALY ALSO MAKES REPRESENTATIONS TO GERMANY

ROME, February 14.—Italy has made virtually the same representations to Germany as did the United States concerning neutral shipping in the German sea war zone. It was made known to-day. Italy, however, limited her action to friendly observations through the Italian ambassador to Germany. Italy maintained the right of her ships to proceed without molestation, furnished to the ascertaining of the nationality of the people on board, and the quality of the cargoes, unless Germany can make the blockade effective.

ties, our operations are taking the course we anticipated.

"In Poland, on the right bank of the Vistula, our troops are making progress in the direction of Raciborz. In Poland, on the left bank of the Vistula, there is no change to report."

## Austrian

VIENNA, February 14 (via London, February 15).—The official communication issued to-night follows:

"The situation in Russian Poland and West Galicia remains unchanged. On part of our battle front, in the Dukla sector, against which a vigorous Russian attack was made, we threw back the enemy, and also drove the Siberian troops from two dominating heights and stormed a village near Visokow.

"Equally successful was an attack by the allied Germans and Austrians in the middle Carpathian woods, where we captured from the enemy heights over which there had been much fighting. Yesterday we took 970 prisoners.

"In Southwest Galicia and Bukovina we have won victories. South-west of Nadworna the enemy was repulsed. We captured the heights to the north of Delatyn, taking many prisoners."

## Russian

PETROGRAD, February 14.—The following official statement from the general staff of the Russian commander-in-chief was made public to-night:

"The fighting on the right bank of the Vistula is developing gradually on the front from Mochow up to the highway from Myslenko to Ostrolenka. It has assumed the nature of partly isolated combats.

"In the region of Lyck, Raygrad and Grajewo the fighting is characterized by considerable obstinacy. Farther north our troops have fallen back upon the fortified line of the River Niemien, under pressure of heavy German forces.

"On the left bank of the Vistula there has been only cannonading.

"On the Nida the enemy has developed from time to time a very intense artillery fire.

"In the Carpathians we have repulsed attacks by the enemy in the region of Gorlice and Svidnik. We have captured the enemy's fortifications at Smolnik, east of Lupkow, where we took eighteen officers and more than 1,000 soldiers and three machine guns.

"Tenacious engagements are in progress on the Dukla-Wyszko front and on the roads toward Nadworna."

## PEACE IS NOT DISCUSSED BY ALLIED SOCIALISTS

Delegates Decide No Hope Can Be Entertained Until German Militarism Is Crushed

LONDON, February 14 (6:45 P. M.).—Representative Socialists of the allied countries met in London to-day under the presidency of James Keir Hardie, Socialist member of Parliament from Merthyr Tydfil, to discuss the international situation. The subject of peace was not discussed, as the delegates had decided that "no hope for peace could be entertained until German militarism was crushed."

Resolutions were passed demanding that Belgium shall be liberated and compensated; that the government of Poland shall be settled in accordance with the wishes of the Polish people; "either in the sense of autonomy in the midst of another state, or in that of complete independence, and that throughout, from Alsace-Lorraine to the Balkans, those populations that have been annexed by force shall receive the right freely to dispose of themselves."

The resolution also declares that while the allied Socialists have resolved to fight until victory is achieved, they have resolved "to resist any attempt to transfer their defensive war into a war of conquest."

## JAPAN IS ADAMANT

Insists That China Must Comply With Demands.

PEKING, February 14.—The Chinese ambassador at Tokyo to-day reported to his government that the Japanese Foreign Minister, Baron Takaaki Kato, had declared that Japan must insist on the acceptance of the total demands of the Japanese government. At the Chinese Foreign Office, however, it was said the Peking government intended to continue in its refusal to acquiesce in the Japanese demands.

## Japs Constructing Barracks.

WIESHIEN, SHANTUNG, CHINA, February 14.—The Japanese are constructing wooden barracks at every railway station, except the smallest, along the line between Wieshsien and Tsinan.

Tsinan is the capital of the Chinese Province of Shantung, and is connected by rail through Wieshsien, with Tainkchau, the port of the Kiauchau concession recently surrendered by the Germans to the Japanese troops. The distance by rail between Tainkchau and Tsinan is approximately 225 miles.

## DEPERDUSSIN INQUIRY ENDS

Shows, It Is Alleged, Shortage of \$5,000,000.

PARIS, February 14.—The inquiry into the affairs of Armand Deperdussin, the inventor and aeroplane manufacturer, who was arrested in August, 1913, on a charge of forgery and breach of trust, has been completed, and shows, it is alleged, a shortage of \$5,000,000, a Paris bank being the creditor. Deperdussin was committed for trial at the next assizes.

The specific charge against Deperdussin is forgery and breach of trust in having simulated large orders for aeroplanes to obtain money in advance for material with which to construct them. It was alleged that he used the money for private purposes.

## BELGIAN COMMISSION TELLS OF WAR'S EFFECTS

Rockefeller Foundation Makes Public Report of Its Investigators' Findings.

## WITHOUT PARALLEL IN HISTORY

Highly Organized Community Finds Itself in Condition of Collapse. Strong Nation Suddenly Experiences Enforced Inactivity.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, February 14.—The Rockefeller Foundation has received from its War Relief Commission, sent last November to investigate the effects of the war upon noncombatant populations of belligerent countries, a report of the effects of the war in Belgium. The commission is composed of Wickliffe Rose, chairman, director-general of the International Health Commission; Ernest P. Bicknell, secretary of the American Red Cross Society, and Henry James, Jr., manager of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. That portion of the report, dated January 1, 1915, which deals with the effects of the war, is as follows:

"There are some 220,000 Belgian refugees in concentration camps or private homes in Holland to-day. In England there are 100,000 refugees. The San Francisco area is burned out 225,000 people, and the total population of the city was about 350,000. The population of Galveston was about 15,000. The number of people who are still in Belgium, but who have been driven out of their homes in one way or another, has not yet been estimated.

"Yet, if one is to understand the Belgian problem, it is perhaps necessary to emphasize, not the destitution of a few hundred thousand, but the suddenly enforced inactivity of a strong and healthy nation of 7,000,000. This is what makes the Belgian situation a thing without parallel in history.

"Essentially, the problem is not one of repair, but of liberation. If the paralyzing restrictions imposed by the war were removed to-day, the country would rebound from its helpless inertia to-morrow, resume most of its normal occupations and soon be able to feed, shelter and clothe its own sufferers.

"If the restriction continues many months, however, the elasticity will suffer and the country will rise but slowly from its prostrate position. This fundamental difficulty has to be recognized, even if it cannot be removed, in order that other things may be seen in their right perspective.

## 1. Transportation, Communication and Banking.

"The condition of collapse in which this highly organized community finds itself to-day will be readily imagined if the following features of the situation are enumerated:

"The use of the telegraph and telephone is denied to the population absolutely. There is no internal mail service and no communication with the outer world except by letters passing through German channels.

"If a man wants to go from one town to the next, he must usually get a special pass. He may have to spend hours in doing this. This is one reason why Americans, who are allowed to move about more freely, are being used to distribute food supplies. Railways are working for the Germans only.

"Obstructions placed in some of the canals have not yet been removed. Many of the local electric railways are running and the highways remain, but most of the draught animals have been requisitioned. Automobiles are not allowed to circulate.

"The reserve of coin in the banks and a great part of the negotiable securities were removed in advance of the invasion. The issue of paper money by the national bank has been stopped, but many towns and communities are issuing promissory notes good within their own borders.

"German requisitions are paid for, not in money, but by receipts, which are said to be often of the most informal sort. Even paper money is so scarce in Belgium that the German occupation authorities had to exert its arbitrary authority to maintain the exchange between marks and francs at 1 to 125.

"Banks have either closed or limited payments to very small sums. Savings bank depositors cannot draw enough to buy one week's necessities for a workingman's family. Rich people are unable to liquidate any of their assets (unless through Germany, perhaps), and may be literally penniless.

"Modern society has obviously evolved itself around a highly complex mechanism for transport, communication and exchange. In Belgium this mechanism has been completely annihilated.

## 2. Commerce and Industry.

"Commerce and industry are thus at a standstill. The only tradespeople who do any business are those who sell foods or clothing. All government

employees (railways, post-offices, etc.) are, therefore, either necessarily out of work or are striking against the German occupation.

"Many of the coal mines are managing to give two or three days of work a week to their employees, and will continue to do this without profit, or even at a loss, so long as they continue to get money for the payroll either in Holland or by sales to the householders of Belgium.

"Some factories and shops have similarly worked their employees part time in making up their existing stocks of raw materials. They put the product in storage.

"Others are finding work for a few men in making annual repairs, etc. The courage with which such employees are thus assuming the burden of this emergency is admirable, but few can continue this policy for more than two or three months longer, unless the Germans do something to facilitate banking and transport.

"In a few months these industrial populations are likely to be the most helpless and the greatest sufferers. In contrast like Liege, Brussels, Louvain and Malines bread is now being distributed gratis to from one-fourth to one-half of the population.

"There has been talk about giving men work on the canals, highways and public improvements, but such public utilities are government-owned, and no government exists to authorize the work.

## 3. Agricultural and Food Supply.

"Speaking of the agricultural districts generally, it is perhaps likely that the destruction of stock is of greater importance than the destruction of houses, though the housing problem is acute in some villages.

"If houses are burned, their former inmates double up with more fortunate neighbors or often continue on their own premises, even though in the greatest squalor and discomfort. But without draught animals they can do little to till, plant or harvest.

"The country is pretty well cleaned of horses and oxen. The armies have not refrained entirely from requisitioning milk cows. The peasants are in the greatest terror that the few animals that remain to them may be taken.

"They are, therefore, killing them and disposing of them for what they can get. Meat is selling abundantly at half its usual price in some places. If this process continues, such localities will have no live stock of any sort by spring.

"There are other factors in the agricultural situation, however, which may turn out to be of predominating importance. It was impressive and encouraging to observe that the autumn planting has somehow been done.

"We were told that the peasants were concealing supplies of seed, potatoes, etc., sometimes in holes in the ground. It is conceivable that Belgium may continue to raise most of her own potatoes, fruits and fresh vegetables.

"No one is calculating beyond the next harvest, and such reckoning indicates that a harvest is expected. Everybody is trying to help everybody else, and if a man still has a horse, his neighbors are able to get some use of it.

"The farmer will, doubtless, manage to raise part of what he and his family require, and will keep himself occupied, so that in the long run he may suffer less than his town neighbor.

"In France we found that it was clearly the policy of the German occupation, behind the fighting lines, to promote the planting of next year's crops and to spare milk cows and breeding animals. It would naturally be the policy of the German occupation in Belgium to encourage the raising of foodstuffs.

## 4. Population Reduced.

"The population has been reduced by the war. The army has drawn off perhaps 250,000 men. Some civilians are in prison in Germany; many people are refugees in Holland, England and France. Some have been killed.

"Exact numbers cannot be obtained, but it is estimated that the population is reduced by about 600,000; that is, to about 7,000,000.

"For a moment the country can perhaps spare industrial workers who did not own their own houses—that is, the people who would now be public charges, and would have no incentive to restore what has been destroyed. But every farmer who is away is a loss to the community.

"Some communes and towns are seriously handicapped to-day by the absence of the men of property and position, who would be their natural leaders and agents in restoring order, in administering philanthropies, in raising funds and in dealing with the Germans.

"Some such have been killed, some are in German detention camps, others are with the army or the government at Havre; too many are refugees in Holland and England.

## 5. Destruction of Houses and Property.

"No estimates can be obtained of the total either of the military requisitions and levies, or of the destruction of property, but this total must be enormous.

"While the German army was fight-

ing its way across Belgium, the soldiers of both sides took poultry, food supplies, wines and bedding to the limit of their immediate desires—or beyond.

"Since then the German occupation has requisitioned grain, canned goods, food supplies, live stock and horses from towns and countryside. It has also requisitioned such things as cotton and woolen stores, both raw and manufactured; copper fixtures and implements in some factories, motor cars, gasoline and any machinery that can be used in the manufacture of armaments. On our tours about Belgium we saw very few cattle, and practically no hogs or draught horses.

"A few villages have been completely destroyed. A number of houses have been burned in almost every village or town along the main thoroughfares. The inhabitants frequently had no time to save anything except the clothes on their backs.

"The destruction of tools and implements cannot be estimated. In the smaller places through which the army passed, and in some larger towns like Louvain and Malines, where there was fighting or wholesale burning, it appears that nearly all the remaining houses have been looted. We found in many that the immovable furniture had been broken up.

"The houses thus wrought have not been repaired. Little has been done even to restore the physical disorder left by the passing army.

"Generally speaking, the tumbled wreck of roofs, walls and rafters remains untouched. It would seem that it might be cleared up, and that the good bricks and stones might be set aside for rebuilding. Several reasons are assigned for the general inertia in this matter.

"Many owners have fled. Others have neither materials nor money to rebuild. Tenants do not bother about the wreckage of a rented house.

"The housing problem in such places may fairly be called acute. It is surprising to see with what tenacity people cling to the remains of their homes. A family of six, for instance, living for more than two months in a pig pen, ten feet by twelve. The fifth about this pigsty made one wonder how the family had escaped sickness so long. They camp in every kind of remnant of shelter.

"We found people living in cellars under the ruins of their homes, in lofts over the cow stalls; saw children that had been born in hencoops and pigsties, and learned of one man who considered that he was doing well when the population of his poultry house was reduced from twenty-two to eighteen refugees.

"In Vise there were 1,200 families. We did not see a dozen houses standing in Louvaine, seventy out of 150 houses were destroyed. In Tremeloo half the houses were razed.

"These are examples. Where the destruction was on a large scale there was necessarily a considerable exodus. But it is, of course, clear that the family which leaves its own village adds to the housing problem somewhere else, and that such desertions tend to the increase of idlers and the neglect of the abandoned gardens and fields.

## 6. Alleviating Influences.

"The disaster, being national in scale, is shared by all. When misfortune overtakes an individual in a healthy community, his loneliness is usually no small element of his sorrow.

"The emergency has summoned every courageous virtue into expression. The

same thing has been observed in other communities overcome by sudden disaster. The pathetic note is not often heard in Belgium to-day.

"Furthermore, the universality of the calamity automatically distributes the burden. There is a general moralium for the very poor. Tenants pay no rent, and though the landlords are thereby impoverished, the tenants are not evicted.

"The sale of distilled liquors has been stopped, and alcoholism has been reduced. Lights are out at night, places of amusement and concourse are closed, and every one has to be at home early.

"The wife of a coal miner near Liege, who is now working half time, said that her husband is giving her as much money as ever. In all sorts of ways the immediate load is being divided and apportioned to the future."

## CROSS SERBIAN FRONTIER

Albanians Advance Into Department of Prizrend.

PARIS, February 14.—A Havre telegram from Nish says the following statement was given out by the Serbian government to-day:

"Yesterday large numbers of Albanians broke through our lines, crossing the frontier in the Department of Prizrend. Before superior forces of the enemy our troops, as well as the municipal authorities, were forced to retreat.

"The Albanians continue to advance. The enemy out telephone and telegraph communications.

## EXPLOSION BLOWS UP SERBIAN FORTRESS

BERLIN, February 14 via wireless to Sayville).—The Overseas News Agency says that, according to Italian newspapers, the Serbian fortress of Semendria has been blown up by the explosion of its powder magazines after being shelled by Austro-Hungarian artillery. Semendria is on the Danube, twenty-four miles southeast of Belgrade.

## MEMBERS OF RUSSIAN STAFF CAPTURED

BERLIN, February 14 (by wireless to Sayville).—The Budapest daily newspaper, Aezel, says Austro-Hungarian troops entered Radutsa, in Bukovina, so unexpectedly that all members of the Russian general staff were captured.

The commanding Russian general, the newspaper adds, committed suicide.